UNITED
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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/51/53
9 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 79

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.19)]

51/53. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/78 of 12 December 1995 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Noting and welcoming with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] that was held at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion, which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Noting with satisfaction the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[2] in which it was stated that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

[1] See A/50/426.

[2] S/PRST/1996/17.

Bearing in mind resolution CM/Res.1660 (LXIV) on expediting the process of ratification of the Treaty of Pelindaba, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996,[3]

1. Calls upon African States to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty[1] as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the international community and in particular to the nuclear-weapon States which have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon them to ratify the Protocols as soon as possible;

3. Calls upon the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. Calls upon the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[4] which have not yet concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty to do so, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force;

5. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Secretary-General for the diligence with which he has rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in accordance with resolution 50/78;

6. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to extend assistance, within existing resources, to the signatories in 1997 in order to achieve the aims of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

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[3] A/51/524, annex I.

[4] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.

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9 January 1997

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.20)]

51/54. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and thirty-nine States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

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[1] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[2] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

Recalling its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, inter alia, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the Third Review Conference,[3] of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

Recalling also its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint,[4] agreed to by consensus at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Group at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

Recalling further its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[5] adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts, the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994, and the final documents of the Review Conferences,

1. Welcomes the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[2]

2. Also welcomes the progress made by the Ad Hoc Group in pursuing the mandate established by the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on 30 September 1994, and urges the Ad Hoc Group, in order to fulfil its mandate, to intensify its work with a view to completing it as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained

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[3] See BWC/CONF.III/23.

[4] BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.

[5] BWC/SPCONF/1.

in the final report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group;

4. Welcomes the convening, at the request of the States parties, of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Geneva from 25 November to 6 December 1996;

5. Calls upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.21)]

51/55. The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the observance of the Charter and the principles of international law is essential for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world,

Mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter, inter alia, to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, to develop friendly relations among nations and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Deeply concerned that situations that may lead to a breach of international peace are continuing in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them and to avert such conflicts in the future,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of

preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development,

Considering that the violent disintegration of States may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security,

Affirming the need for United Nations measures to help prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

1. Calls upon all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to undertake measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as appropriate to help to prevent the violent disintegration of States;

2. Stresses the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States to the solution of problems among States, to prevent the violent disintegration of States and to promote international cooperation in accordance with the Charter;

3. Affirms the need for strict compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders among States;

4. Affirms also the need for strict compliance with the principle of the territorial integrity of any State;

5. Requests all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States".

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9 January 1997

Fifty-first session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/567)]

51/56. Question of Antarctica

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/80 of 15 December 1994, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit information provided by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties on their consultative meetings and on their activities, and on developments in relation to Antarctica,

Taking into account the debates on the question of Antarctica held since its thirty-eighth session,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, including for international peace and security, the global and regional environment, its effects on global and regional climate conditions, and scientific research,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Recognizing that the Antarctic Treaty,[1] which provides, inter alia, for the demilitarization of the continent, the prohibition of nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear wastes, the freedom of scientific research and the free exchange of scientific information, is in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

[1] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

Recognizing also the designation, in the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty,[2] of Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science and the provisions contained in the Protocol regarding the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems, including for environmental assessment, in the planning and conduct of all activities in Antarctica,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation among countries undertaking scientific research activities in Antarctica, which may help to minimize human impacts on the Antarctic environment,

Welcoming also the increasing awareness of an interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Reaffirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica[3] and the role accorded by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing his report, and also of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, which took place at Seoul from 8 to 19 May 1995 and at Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 29 April to 10 May 1996, respectively;

2. Recalls the statement under chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[4] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should, as provided for in article III of the Antarctic Treaty, continue:

(a) To ensure that data and information resulting from such research are freely available to the international community;

(b) To enhance the access of the international scientific community and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to such data and information, including the encouragement of periodic seminars and symposia;

3. Welcomes the invitations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to attend Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings in order to assist such meetings in their substantive work, and urges the parties to continue to extend such invitations for future consultative meetings;

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[2] International Legal Materials, vol. XXX, No. 6, p. 1461.

[3] A/51/390.

[4] See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II, chap. 17, para. 17.105.

4. Welcomes also the practice whereby the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties regularly provide the Secretary-General with information on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, and encourages the Parties to continue to provide the Secretary-General and other interested States with information on developments in relation to Antarctica, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report which shall consist of that information to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

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